



**RAY EATON**  
back after injury.

## Anglo-Italian

WITH plans for the Anglo-Italian Non League Cup now underway, it has been announced that a representative match between the Italian and English non-league clubs will be played in the 1976-77 season. The teams will be selected from the top three leagues outside professional football in each country.

Last week it was revealed that Wycombe Wanderers will be playing in the Non League Cup at the end of the season with five other clubs from this country. The other clubs are Enfield (from the Rothmans Isthmian League), Wimbledon and Nuneaton from the Southern League and Wigan and Stafford Rangers from the Northern Premier League.

The English clubs will receive their Italian opponents on May 4 and 19 and the return games in Italy are scheduled for June 12 or 13 and June 16. The final will be on June 19 in Italy between the club from each country with the best overall record from the three divisions.

Every club will be helped by sponsorship from Rothmans, who will also support competing clubs with fund raising activities.

# Three goals in four minutes!

By **STUART EARP** Wycombe Wanderers 6, Thame United 0

THREE goals in a four minute blitz was the highlight of an entertaining friendly at Loakes Park on Thursday night when Wycombe Wanderers took on Rothmans Hellenic Leaguers Thame United.

Although Thame were obviously outclassed, they kept fighting until the end and they can take some consolation from the fact that Wycombe were at their tip top best. Afforded the luxury of time and space, Wanderers gave the visiting defence a real grilling and there were some glorious attacking movements throughout the 90 minutes. The finishing, too, was first class.

The friendly gave manager Brian Lee the chance to bring back Ray Eaton for his first game since chipping a bone in his elbow on November 8. Ray obviously hopes to make the side at Cardiff and this match provided useful match practise. Paul Sussons, the former West Ham player, also turned out for the first time since pre-season friendlies, Paul had an operation earlier this term and on this performance will be bidding for a regular place in the side.

Thame showed some nice ideas going forward in the first half but many of their moves broke down inside the Wycombe box where the experience of the back four served them well. Dylan Evans opened Wycombe's account after 10 minutes, Derek Harris cutting in from the flank and sending the ball through the defence. Dylan had time to line up his shot before firing past Taylor.

With Derek Cotterill dominating midfield, the Blues won about 80 per cent of the ball but one or two of them tried a little too much and paid the penalty. Howard Kennedy, for instance, was clean through with only the goalkeeper to beat but took too long and Pledge came back to tackle. Kennedy made amends in the 40th minute when rifling home Alexander's cross from the bye-line for a rare headed goal.

Both sides made substitutions at half-time but Wanderers, who seemed to take this game a lot more seriously than the Addlestone fixture a few weeks ago, really turned on the class. Harris intercepted a weak back pass in the 53rd minute and crossed for Kennedy to drive home first time with the

goalkeeper struggling to get back to his line.

Paul Birdseye, who continues to impress be it at right back or left, twice broke through with swerving runs before Thame were shattered by that three goal burst.

It went like this: Harris drove home a poor clearance following a corner after 68 minutes. Two minutes later Sussons ran into space well to rifle Mick Holifield's throughball past Brown, the substitute keeper. Sixty seconds later Delaney lofted the ball over from the edge of the box and Holifield cracked a perfect volley into the net from 15 yards.

To their credit, Thame kept trying against impossible odds

until the close. They went close a couple of times but Peter Spittle, in goal, had little trouble in keeping a clean sheet. Unfortunately only 80 people turned up for this game but those who were there certainly had value for money.

**WYCOMBE:** P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, D. Bullock, K. Mead, R. Eaton; D. Alexander (sub. M. Holifield 45 mins.), D. Cotterill (sub. D. Evans 83 mins.), P. Sussons; H. Kennedy, D. Harris, D. Evans (sub. J. Delaney 59 mins.).

**THAME:** Taylor (sub. Brown 45 mins.); Pledge (sub. Williams 45 mins.), Fagan, Shuffbottom, Knight; Powell, Doherty, Shetrell; Hillier (sub. Silto 45 mins.), Platt, Spott.

**Referee:** K. Smith (High Wycombe).  
**Half-time:** 2-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe — Evans (10), Kennedy 2 (40, 53), Harris (58), Sussons (70), Holifield (71).